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CITY AND COUNTY OF LICHFIELD

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



1962



CITY AND COUNTY OF LICHFIELD

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CITY AND COUNTY OF LICHFIELD

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

1962

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,  
City and County of Lichfield.

I have pleasure in presenting my report on certain aspects of the health of the community and of the work of the Health Department of the Council during 1962.


As in other years, I am indebted to other Officers of the Council for a good deal of the information contained in these pages. I take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation for these contributions.

I would also thank the Members and Officers of the Council for their continued co-operation and support during the year under review.

C.E. JAMISON.

Medical Officer of Health

Guildhall,  
August, 1963.



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### GENERAL STATISTICS

Particulars of area, population, number of inhabited houses, total rateable value of all property subject to rates and the product of a penny rate are set out below in the same form as in previous years:-

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,597
Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,350
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,646
Total Rateable Value of Property	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£185,817
Product of a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£747

While the area was, of course, unchanged, as compared with previous years, the increases shown in the population and in the number of occupied houses indicate the rapidity with which the City is now growing, whilst the increases in rateable value of property and in the product of a penny rate show the corresponding increase in financial resources which has resulted from the expansion.

### VITAL STATISTICS

The principal statistics are set out below under the same headings as in previous years:-

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	145	143	293
Illegitimate	5	9	14
Totals	150	157	307

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population - 20.0

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	3	3	6
Illegitimate	--	--	--
Totals	3	3	6

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births - 19.2

<u>Deaths of Infants Under One Week of Age</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	3	4
Illegitimate	--	--	--
Totals	1	3	4





<u>Deaths of Infants Under Four Weeks of Age</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	3	4
Illegitimate	---	---	---
Totals	1	3	4

Neonatal Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births - 13.0

<u>Deaths of Infants Under One Year of Age</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	5	6
Illegitimate	---	---	---
Totals	1	5	6

Infant Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births - 19.5

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths (All Ages)	82	84	146

Death Rate (All Ages) per 1,000 Population - 9.5

As will be seen, one birth, live and still, in every 22 was an illegitimate one. This figure compares with one in 18 in 1961, one in 28 in 1960, one in 24 in 1959, one in 15 in 1958 and one in 22 in 1957.

It will be noted that no still births and no infant deaths were recorded in illegitimate children.

The following table shows how the figures for 1962 compare with those for the preceding five years:-

Year	Estimated Population	Live Birth Rate	Still Birth Rate	Neonatal Death Rate	Infant Death Rate	Death Rate (All Ages)
1957	11,190	20.1	26.0	26.7	26.7	11.6
1958	11,510	21.4	39.0	12.2	24.4	12.4
1959	12,180	17.6	13.7	9.3	18.6	12.7
1960	12,340	22.0	20.8	10.6	24.8	14.2
1961	14,240	21.8	40.2	12.9	12.9	12.6
1962	15,350	20.0	19.2	13.0	19.5	9.5

The figures are recorded for a smaller number of years than in reports for recent years in order that the neonatal death rate, not available for all the years prior to 1957, could be included. The neonatal death rate is particularly significant because it covers the period when the majority of infant deaths now occur, and illustrates the contrast between this period, when deaths still occur



in numbers not very different from those of earlier years and the remaining part of infancy, where the figures are very much improved as compared with earlier years. It can fairly be stated that the figures for 1962 are relatively satisfactory ones for all the statistics included in the table.

After adjusting the local figures where appropriate, in accordance with the comparability figures provided by the Registrar General, to allow for the variations between the local population and that of the country as a whole, the following table shows the comparison between the local figures and the national ones:-

Area	Live Birth Rate	Still Birth Rate	Neonatal Death Rate	Infant Death Rate	Death Rate (All Ages)
Lichfield	17.6	19.2	13.0	19.5	8.9
England and Wales	18.0	18.1	14.9	21.4	11.9

It will be seen that, taken as a whole, the local figures compare quite favourably with the national ones.

The following table shows the causes of death of persons ordinarily resident in the City who died during the year, regardless of where the death actually occurred:-

Disease	Total 1957	Total 1958	Total 1959	Total 1960	Total 1961	1962		
						M	F	Total
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	--	--	1	2	1	1	--	1
Other Tuberculosis	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Syphilitic Disease	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Diphtheria	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Whooping Cough	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Meningococcal Infections	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Measles	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other Infective and Parasitic Disease	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach	1	1	--	3	2	2	2	4
Malignant Neoplasm of Lung and Bronchus	3	1	2	5	8	2	--	2
Malignant Neoplasm of Breast	5	2	3	2	--	--	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm of Uterus	2	1	--	--	1	--	1	1
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	12	11	20	13	19	6	6	12
Leukaemia and Aleukaemia	--	--	--	2	1	--	--	--
Diabetes	--	2	2	2	--	--	--	--
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	14	20	24	29	29	11	13	24
Coronary Disease and Angina	8	8	10	23	27	17	7	24
Hypertension with Heart Disease	--	2	2	2	1	--	3	3



Disease	Total 1957	Total 1958	Total 1959	Total 1960	Total 1961	1962		
						M	F	Total
Other Heart Diseases	26	20	19	22	20	7	11	18
Other Circulatory Diseases	11	6	13	6	16	4	11	15
Influenza	4	--	8	--	4	--	6	6
Pneumonia	3	4	4	6	7	5	4	9
Bronchitis	3	12	7	6	8	9	3	12
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	3	6	4	3	3	2	5
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	--	2	--	--	5	1	--	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	2	2	2	2	1	--	--	4
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	--	--	--	2	1	--	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	4	3	2	2	--	1	--	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Congenital Malformations	1	2	1	5	3	1	2	3
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	23	33	23	42	19	8	8	16
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	2	2	3	1	1	1	2
All Other Accidents	2	3	3	--	2	2	1	3
Suicide	1	2	1	2	--	--	1	1
Homicide and Operations of War	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
All Diseases	130	143	155	183	180	82	84	166

Of these deaths, six, as already recorded, occurred in infants under one year of age, while one occurred in a child of between one year and two years of age, two in children of between five years and fifteen years, 32 in persons of between 15 years and 65 years and the remaining 125 deaths in persons over 65 years of age.

As indicated in the statistics, four of the six infant deaths occurred during the first week of life. Of these four deaths, two were attributed entirely to congenital abnormalities, one to prematurity occurring in an otherwise normal infant and one to prematurity occurring in an infant suffering from a serious congenital abnormality. The two remaining infant deaths occurred in infants of one month and two months respectively. Both of these infants also suffered from serious congenital abnormalities, one death following a surgical attempt to repair the abnormal organ. It is obvious that congenital abnormalities are now the major hazard affecting mortality in infants. None of these deaths occurred in infants with deformities resulting from the administration of thalidomide to the mother during pregnancy.

Of the deaths occurring in older children, that in the child of between one year and two years was due to pneumonia, occurring in a child with a congenital defect, while the deaths in children of between five and fifteen years involved a child of six years who died as a result of cardiac complications following removal of tonsils and one of seven years who died of a type of cancer occurring in children. It is notable that, as has now become usual, no death in a child resulted from the common infectious diseases of childhood.





Deaths resulting from cancer of the lung and bronchus were less numerous than in some recent years. Both the deaths reported occurred in males in the later part of middle age. The publication during the year of the report by the Royal College of Physicians on the connection between smoking, particularly of cigarettes, and lung cancer did not materially affect smoking habits, and it is obviously unlikely that any local action would, in the absence of a well-organised national campaign, affect the position. A small amount of propaganda, by means of posters on notice-boards, leaflets in clinics and health education in schools, was, however, undertaken in an attempt to discourage the smoking habit in young people who have not yet become addicted to the drug.

With one exception, all the influenzal deaths occurred in persons over 80 years of age, thus illustrating the present tendency for this disease to be a terminal feature in the very elderly, rather than a significant factor in causing deaths which would not otherwise occur.

The same can reasonably be said of pneumonia, where, of the nine deaths, only two occurred in persons of less than 80 years, and only one in a person of under 70 years of age.

In the case of bronchitis, the picture is similar to the extent that all but two of the twelve deaths occurred at ages over 65 years. In this case, however, it is notable that nine of the deaths occurred in males, no doubt reflecting the heavier consumption by the male of tobacco over a period of many years.

Of the accidental deaths involving motor vehicles, one occurred in an elderly person and the second in a woman of 60 years. In the case of those accidental deaths not involving motor vehicles, two of the victims were elderly persons who died from complications following falls, while the third was in a man of 54 years, who died from pulmonary embolism, following thrombosis of a vein, occurring as a complication of a fractured ankle. These accidents, taken as a whole, illustrate well the hazards that await old people both on the roads and in their own houses, as compared with the greater ability of younger people to cope with similar contingencies.

The one suicide occurred in a young woman, who died from coal-gas poisoning, taken while the balance of her mind was disturbed.

Fortunately, no death was attributed to either pregnancy, childbirth or abortion.

#### NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

The following table shows the number of cases of the various infectious diseases, other than tuberculosis, notified during the year, and also, for comparison, the numbers of cases of these diseases notified during the preceding ten years:-

DISEASE	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
Measles	23	248	--	127	2	215	52	209	194	320	3
Whooping Cough	1	86	--	2	7	11	15	1	34	--	--
Scarlet Fever	4	1	--	2	4	2	3	7	2	1	2





DISEASE	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
Erysipelas	1	1	---	---	---	1	---	1	---	---	---
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	---	---	---	1	---	2	---	---	---	---	---
Encephalitis	---	---	---	---	1	---	---	---	---	---	---
Dysentery	1	1	---	7	20	---	---	1	---	1	22
Food Poisoning	---	1	---	---	3	4	2	---	2	1	1
Pneumonia	1	15	1	4	1	6	---	2	1	12	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	17	8	8	4	6	17	7	4	8	8	6
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	---	---	---	---	---	1	1	1	6	1	2

It will be seen that very few cases of either measles or scarlet fever were notified, and no cases at all of whooping cough or poliomyelitis. There is good reason to believe that preventive inoculation is now playing an important part in the prevention of whooping cough and poliomyelitis, as it did earlier in the prevention of small pox and diphtheria. An effective vaccine is, however, badly needed in the fight against measles, if the disease is not to continue to manifest itself in epidemic form at the usual biennial interval. As many cases have already occurred during the present year, the best that can be hoped for is that one of the vaccines now under trial will be released for general use in time to influence, at least in some degree, the epidemic due about two years from now. In the case of scarlet fever it would seem that the disease can be controlled adequately by the use of modern drugs, and that preventive inoculation is therefore unnecessary.

The great majority of the cases of dysentery occurred in a residential nursery. All were of the usual fairly mild variety. Although, as commonly happens, the disease spread fairly widely among the children, the routine measures of isolation of infected children and bacteriological investigation of all those, whether children or adults, in contact with them, brought the outbreak under control reasonably quickly.

The one case of food-poisoning was notified in respect of a young child. The usual precautions were taken to prevent the spread of infection, and appeared to be successful, as no further case was notified.

Six cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified during the year, but none revealed any serious infection.



Although no case of smallpox was notified during the year, one or two patients were seen in order to confirm the alternative diagnosis of chickenpox, and in order to exclude, as far as reasonably possible, any likelihood of a mild or atypical case being missed. A number of contacts, mostly fairly remote, of cases of smallpox occurring in other parts of the country were vaccinated, and kept under surveillance during the period when symptoms or signs could appear. A much larger number of vaccinations were carried out on persons who, although not in contact with any known case or suspected case, believed themselves to be in special risk of contact either with such persons or with clothing which might be infected. It must be emphasised, however, that the demand for immediate vaccination against smallpox during the period of the epidemic far exceeded the number of those at any appreciable risk of infection, and could not therefore be justified on any sound epidemiological grounds, particularly in the light of the quite significant, though extremely small, risk involved of serious complications following smallpox vaccinations carried out on adults who had never been vaccinated in earlier life. It would obviously be much preferable if parents would have their children vaccinated, as a routine prophylactic measure, during the second year of life, revaccinated between 8-12 years, and revaccinated again on such subsequent occasions as medically advised, or required for foreign travel etc.

TUBERCULOSIS

Two cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year, one infection being a pulmonary one occurring in a middle-aged man and the other a non-pulmonary one in a young woman.

The one death attributable to tuberculosis occurred in a man of 65 years, who had had pulmonary tuberculosis many years before, death being due to a combination of causes.

The following table shows how the figures for 1962 compare with those of earlier years:-

Year	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1947	4	2	1	1	2	1	1	--
1948	6	7	2	--	2	3	--	--
1949	3	3	3	3	3	--	--	--
1950	3	3	3	3	3	--	--	--
1951	1	3	3	1	--	1	1	--
1952	5	1	--	4	2	1	--	--
1953	2	1	1	1	--	1	--	--
1954	4	2	1	--	--	--	--	1
1955	3	4	1	--	--	--	1	--
1956	4	--	--	--	1	--	--	--
1957	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--



Year	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1958	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	--
1959	2	--	--	--	1	--	--	--
1960	1	1	1	1	2	--	--	--
1961	--	2	--	--	1	--	--	--
1962	1	--	--	1	1	--	--	--

It will be seen that the figures are comparable with those for recent years, and very much better than those for the years prior to 1957.

Arrangements for diagnosis, treatment and surveillance continued as in recent years. It may be mentioned that among patients under surveillance are now a number who contracted the infection in other areas, but who have now come to reside in Lichfield. The arrangements ensure that both treatment and supervision are continued without interruption, to the advantage of both patients and those in contact with them.

#### HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

Increased numbers of beds became available during the year for the use of those elderly chronic sick persons requiring them, which naturally reduced the waiting list for such beds. It was necessary, however, to continue the arrangement by which, in certain cases, environmental investigation is carried out to determine which patients were most in need of the beds available.

In the case of maternity beds also, the demand continued to exceed the supply, and necessitated some investigation of those desiring hospital confinement on other than purely medical grounds.

The supply of beds for patients suffering from the various infectious diseases, including tuberculosis, proved quite adequate for the relatively small requirements. It was, fortunately, not necessary to make any demand on the hospital facilities earmarked for actual or suspected cases of smallpox.

#### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 AND 1951.

It was again possible to avoid recourse during the year to statutory action for the compulsory removal of any person either to hospital or hostel, the good liaison with the home help service materially assisting to that end.

#### VENEREAL DISEASES

Arrangements continued as in other recent years, patients being treated at the hospitals in Birmingham, Burton, Stafford and Walsall.





## LABORATORY FACILITIES

Free use was made, as in earlier years, of the very satisfactory facilities available at the County Chemical and Public Health Laboratories in Stafford.

## WATER SUPPLY

Chemical and bacteriological investigation of water supplies were carried out where necessary, in addition to which the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company made available for perusal copies of their reports on examination of water supplies carried out by them. With one exception, all samples from both sources proved to be satisfactory.

## PUBLIC SWIMMING BATH

The water in the pool was sampled regularly during the season of operation. All samples were found to be satisfactory in quality.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

Arrangements for inspection of premises where food is prepared for or sold to the public, and for the investigation of complaints by the public continued as in previous years. Details regarding these matters are contained in the Public Health Inspector's section of the report.

I have received, through the County Medical Officer, details of 26 samples of milk and 75 samples of other foods and alcoholic beverages taken by the County Council, as Food and Drugs Authority, in the City during 1962. All the samples of milk were found to be genuine, but five of the samples of other foods gave rise to various types of informal action.

The following table shows the results of laboratory investigation of samples of milk taken in the City during the year for testing in respect of cleanliness and, in appropriate cases, for the efficiency of the pasteurisation and sterilisation processes:-

Type of Milk	TEST					
	Iothylene Blue (Cleanliness)		Phosphatase (Efficient Pasteurisation)		Turbidity (Efficient Sterilisation)	
	Sat	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	50	---	50	--	--	--
Pasteurised	29	--	29	--	--	--
Sterilised	--	--	--	--	26	--
Totals	79	--	79	--	26	--

It is pleasing to be able to record that, for the fourth successive year all samples proved to be satisfactory in respect of the matters for which they were tested.





## HOUSING

Progress in the rehousing of families living in houses unfit for human habitation was similar to that achieved in the previous year, 22 families being rehoused from old houses and a further 10 families from temporary prefabricated bungalows which had outlived their useful life. In addition, 30 families were rehoused on grounds of general needs and 44 families under overspill housing arrangements made with Birmingham Corporation. The number of families on the waiting list, excluding those Birmingham residents registered under the overspill scheme, increased from 518 at the beginning of the year to 584 at the end. It is obvious that, while much has been done to meet housing needs, much still remains to be done to meet the need for houses of the type provided by the Council.

In view of the fairly large number of houses, particularly in Stowe Street, which had been the subject of earlier statutory action under the Housing Acts, but which were still awaiting clearance, no further formal representations were made to the Council during 1962. Considerable further action will, of course, be required in the fairly near future, if the Council's record five-year clearance programme is to be achieved within the stipulated period.

### FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 - 1959.

During the year, there were three additions to and two deletions from the list of factories registered under the Factories Acts.

Particulars relating to inspections of registered factories are set out below:-

No. of Factories on Register	Inspections	No. of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
86	70	--	--

The following table shows, in more detail, the small number of defects found, these defects being remedied without recourse either to written notice or prosecution:-

Particulars of Defect	Defects Found	Defects Remedied	Defects Referred		Prosecutions Instituted
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	--	--	--	--	--
Overcrowding	--	--	--	--	--
Unreasonable temperature	--	--	--	--	--
Inadequate ventilation	--	--	--	--	--
Ineffective drainage of floors	--	--	--	--	--
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	--	--	--	--	--
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	--	--	--



Information relating to outworkers is set out below in the form required by the Minister:-

Nature of Work	No. of Outworkers on List	No. of Defaults in Sending List to Council	No. of Prosecutions in Failure to Supply Lists	No. of Instances of work in Unwholesome Places	Notices Served
Wearing Apparel					
Making	3	--	--	--	--
Cleaning	--	--	--	--	--
Washing	--	--	--	--	--

It will be seen that, as in previous years, only a very small amount of outwork was dealt with in homes in Lichfield.

#### REPORT OF THE CITY SURVEYOR

A large number of varied schemes were carried out by the Health Committee during 1962.

The public conveniences were redecorated, and new handwashers were installed in the conveniences at The Friary (men's), Bird Street (ladies) and Market Square (ladies). Strip lighting was installed in the Bird Street and Market Square conveniences, and the roof was repaired in the Market Square conveniences, with the provision of new roof lights. The Recreation Ground conveniences were closed for the winter period by the provision of new folding gates. A full-time cleaner was appointed for the men's conveniences, and, with the various improvements, previous complaints have been reduced considerably.

The number of patrons at the baths, including school children, has increased during the year. New matting was provided to prevent slipping in the cubicle area. Proposals for a spectators' platform were not proceeded with.

A second new refuse collection vehicle was delivered during the year, and the old side-loader freighter sold. Investigations were made into the possibility of a paper bag collection but not proceeded with, primarily in view of the financial implications. The collection is increasing as new properties are built. The salvage collection from the Town Centre has been kept going, although the salvage is destroyed at present. The erection of the baling shed, for which a contract had been let, has not yet been proceeded with in view of the uncertainty regarding the future disposal of refuse and salvage. The refuse tip at Shenstone is being filled rapidly, and investigation into the provision of a pulverisation plant, either as a joint scheme with the Rural District Council or as a separate venture, has been proceeding. The provision of fire prevention was made at the tip. The question of paper blowing out of the tip was tackled, and steps were taken to minimise this trouble, with some measure of success.

The Sewage Works worked satisfactorily during the year, although unfortunately the Manager was sick for a period. A new sludge pipe line was laid by contract. Preliminary investigations were made into the provision of recirculation at the works. Normal painting and maintenance were carried out. Several visits were made to the Works by Schools and Members of the Council.





The sewer records were brought a step nearer completion during the year. The Birmingham Road surface water relief sewer was started, and is proceeding satisfactorily. A short length of relief sewer was laid in Borrowcop Lane in an endeavour to minimise foul sewage flooding in the vicinity. Repairs and maintenance on sewers were carried out as necessary.

A contract has been prepared for the construction of a surface water sewer to connect the surface water drainage from Oakhurst to the surface water sewer in Cherry Orchard, and it is hoped that this will be carried out in the near future.

No new applications have been received for fresh discharges of trade effluent to the sewers during the year, but, following recent legislation, the whole question of disposal of effluents will require a great deal of investigation and work.

## REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

### GENERAL INSPECTION OF DISTRICT

As in all other spheres of public administration, the volume of work in the environmental services continues to increase. It was hardly to be expected that the extensive new developments in the City would proceed without raising various problems.

During the year under review more than 300 complaints were investigated. Of this number, 271 were recorded at the office, following messages from householders.

In some cases one visit will suffice, while in others repeated inspections have to be made to ensure that intimations are complied with. The time occupied on this routine work restricts the number of special visits which can be made.

### INSPECTION OF BUILDING SITES

During the year inspections and reinspections were made at building sites in Beacon Street, Wheel Lane, Weston Road, Tanworth Road, Quarry Hills and the Trent Valley Estate. The visits are made primarily in connection with sections in the Factories Act of 1937 with respect to sanitary conveniences. The most satisfactory arrangement is, of course, an early connection to the sewer to enable water closets to be provided. Where this is not practicable, chemical closets are advised. The visits to the sites also afford opportunities to solicit the co-operation of contractors in keeping the sites clear of rubbish, which is not only unsightly but tends to harbour rats and mice.

### HOUSING

Inspections were made at all the houses involved in the central development area. Most of these had been scheduled as sub-standard for several years before redevelopment was contemplated. It was, of course, a matter of regret to me that the two-storey flats in Bakers Lane, which had served such a useful purpose, had to be included for demolition. It was even more regrettable that more accommodation of this kind had not been provided.

The demands for rehousing occasioned by the central development area naturally slowed down the rate of progress in other directions. No further progress was made in the Stowe Street area, but preliminary inspections were made at other properties likely to be cleared in the near future.

As regards improvements at existing houses, modernisation seems only to be undertaken at houses which become occupied by their owners. The majority of rented houses which become vacant are offered for sale. From the hygienic



point of view this is advantageous, since occupier-owners have done much to raise the general standard of housing accommodation in the City and indeed in the whole country. Appeals which have been made to owners of rented property have brought no appreciable response. As previously explained, this is partly because owners are naturally reluctant to undertake structural improvements at low rented properties and partly because some tenants feel they could not afford the increased rents which would result from modernisation of old houses.

It is pleasing to be able to report that the standard of cleanliness at most of the old houses in the City is very satisfactory.

#### CLEAN AIR

This branch of my work has become increasingly important with the developments associated with new industries in the City. New installations must, of course, receive the prior approval of the local authority, to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act. For light industries, at any rate, solid fuel is giving way to oil and electricity both for heating arrangements and for manufacturing processes. Plans relating to proposed new installations are carefully studied and discussed with those responsible for their preparation.

Complaints are still occasionally received from householders regarding emissions of smoke from boiler chimneys, but on investigation it is usually found that the requirements of the Act are being complied with. Since adjustments were made at four of the principal works in the City, conditions have improved. In fact in two cases no smoke of any kind has been noticed during observations.

During the year, complaints concerning the burning of trade refuse were dealt with, and an Abatement Notice was complied with. No further complaint was received after the proprietors of the premises concerned had given their assurance that every effort would be made to avoid nuisance from smoke or fumes.

That there is growing interest in the subject of clean air is evidenced by the number of enquiries now received concerning burning appliances for new houses. These are of course welcomed, and advice and assistance is given in every case. Technical data from manufacturers and distributors of smokeless fuels is useful when new appliances are under consideration. By careful planning it is practicable to ensure smokeless installations without increasing costs.

Invisible impurities in the air from such sources as internal combustion engines is a problem which is becoming more acute with the increasing number of road vehicles now passing through all districts.

#### RODENT CONTROL

During the year all the main sewers in the City were baited. No infestations of a major character were recorded. The only trouble experienced was where connections had been made for new houses. These points were dealt with effectively.

The policy of block surveys referred to in my previous report was continued, and the results prove that the system is well worth while.

Several minor infestations were found following demolition work in the central development area. Rats and mice in small numbers were dealt with at a number of properties.

The building sites in the City were visited, and some treatment was found to be necessary in every case. The main reason for this is the amount of bread which is wasted on the sites.





The refuse tip at Shenstone was treated and, in view of the nature of the infestation, protected baits were used.

Protected baits were also used in the banks of the disused canal in Tamworth Road, where a minor infestation had previously been difficult to deal with.

Accumulations of rubbish and wasted food aggravate the problem of rodent control. It is not generally realized that rats and mice are invariably associated with gaps in environmental hygiene, though it has to be remembered that rodents tend to move about, especially during the autumn when they are searching for food and shelter.

#### FOOD HYGIENE

The principal food premises in the City are:-

Hotels	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Snack Bars	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Fish Friers	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Meat Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	39

In addition to the aforementioned premises, there are 43 licensed premises, as well as a number of shops dealing with various commodities including foodstuffs.

Regular inspections are made at all the main food premises, and occasional visits are made to shops known to deal in some articles of food.

During the year special reports were submitted to the Health Committee on eleven specific complaints from householders. The articles of food concerned were milk, meat pies, sausage, cereal food and canned tomatoes. It sometimes happens that circumstances are such as to preclude formal action by the City Council. Regarding milk bottles, for instance, caps are in some cases removed and the contents partly used before anything abnormal is noticed. In all cases, however, detailed investigations are made, and any contraventions are brought to the notice of the traders concerned, even when legal proceedings are not contemplated.

Progress in structural improvements at food premises has been well maintained, but much still remains to be done. There are shops in the City where restricted space makes it impracticable to ensure compliance with all hygienic requirements. Food handling has received particular attention, and during the year under review special visits were made to all shops where such susceptible articles as meat pies, cooked meat and sausage are exposed for sale. It is only by constant vigilance that acceptable standards of cleanliness can be maintained.

A practice which has caused some concern is that of displaying fruit and vegetables outside shop premises. All shops and stalls concerned were visited, and the requirements of food hygiene explained.

As to proposed new food shops, the City Engineer and Surveyor notifies me of impending developments, so that the requirements of hygiene can be determined before work is commenced.



It should be realized that the rapid growth of the City now taking place has greatly increased the amount of inspectorial work which has to be done under the Food Hygiene Regulations. In this connection there is also the fact that the interest of the public in matters of food hygiene has increased during recent years as evidenced by the number of complaints which are now received.

The undermentioned articles of food were destroyed, after being inspected and found unfit for human consumption:-

Apricots	4 Tins	Orange Juice	6 Tins
Broad Beans	1 Tin	Pork Luncheon Meat	1 Tin
Beef Broth	1 "	Peas	10 Tins
Corned Beef	3 Tins	Peaches	5 "
Cream	2 "	Potato Salad	8 "
Curried Rice	1 Tin	Pineapple	3 "
Carrots	1 "	Prunes	3 "
Custard Powder	3 Tins	Rice	1 Tin
Cooked Shoulder	1 Tin	Salmon	3 Tins
Dog Food	5 Tins	Skimmed Milk	3 "
Evaporated Milk	5 "	Strained Foods	3 "
Fruit Salad	3 "	Stewed Steak	4 "
Golden Syrup	1 Tin	Salt	1 Tin
Imported Sheep's Liver	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Spratts Meat	1 "
Jellied Veal	1 Tin	Sausage	6 lbs. 5 ozs.
Junior Foods	3 Tins	Soup	7 Tins
Lemon Curd	1 Tin	Tomatoes	34 "
Mixed Vegetables	1 "	Vegetable Salad	3 "

#### SALE OF ICE-CREAM

With the exception of one small cafe, where a cold-mix is used in ice cream manufacture, all shops registered for ice cream receive supplies from one or other of the large manufacturers. Only pre-packed ice cream is retailed. The total number of shops selling ice-cream at the end of the year was 45.

A number of mobile shops were inspected to ascertain whether or not washing facilities were provided. In some cases the facilities were remarkably good, while in others the provisions made were of doubtful value and probably rarely used. Over the years, improvements have been made, but the problem of hygiene in mobile food shops of all kinds is one which still bristles with difficulties.

